

W elcome to W orship
St. Luke's E vangelical
Lutheran Church



September 1, 2024



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*
Pastor:
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>
eMail: StLukesNB@gmail.com
Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

Assisting in Worship

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *Pastor Bill Schiltz*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *JoLynn Stewart*

Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

September Altar Candles: [available for sign up](#)

September Bulletins: *Laura & Tony Damon*

September Newsletter: *Laura & Tony Damon*

North Baltimore Food Pantry September requested donations include: pastas and pasta sauces. Without our help, some families in our community will go without. Please give generously.

Order of Worship

Sunday, September 1, 2024

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

**please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

GOD GATHERS US

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Gracious God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to serve."

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Please take a moment for personal reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,

ALL: have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Leader: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven. **ALL: Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN #638**

BLESSED ASSURANCE

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

ALL: ALL: O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST READING

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2, 6-9

Reader: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. ²You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you.

⁶You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" ⁷For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? ⁸And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

⁹But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the

days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

(responsively)

Psalm 15

Reader: LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?

ALL: Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;

Reader: they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.

ALL: In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.

Reader: They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

JAMES 1:17-27

Reader: Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like.

²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

LORD, LET MY HEART BE GOOD SOIL



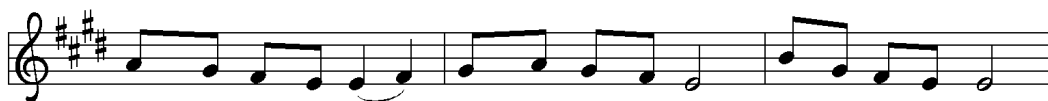
Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.



Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.



When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,



warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.



Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

*GOSPEL READING

MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Leader: There is good news for us today and if comes from the gospel according to Mark chapter 7. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: ¹ Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; ⁷ in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines. ⁸ You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

⁴ Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: ¹⁵ there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. ²¹ "For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, ²² adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. ²³ All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #765

LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Trusting in the almighty power of our God, let us present our tithes and offerings to the God who can take them and mold them and turn them into amazing signs of love and care through us.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray together.

ALL: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Bryant, Emily, Carl, Jim, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Cobie, Jennifer, Tony, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Donnis, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Beth, Ashley, and Pat.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: and also with you.

Please feel free to shake hands as you share God's peace.

Leader: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

GOD NOURISHES US

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: God's love binds us together. Grace comes to us through Christ Jesus. The Spirit moves among us giving us life.

ALL: All praise to God who is holy, almighty, and merciful.

Leader: As children of God, in baptism, we were sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever..

ALL: With our hearts lifted high, we give God thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who in the multitude of your saints did surround us with so great a cloud of witnesses that we, rejoicing in their fellowship, may run with patience the race that is set before us and, together with them, may receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. Therefore, give thanks to the One who raises us to new life and sing to the God of everlasting love.

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

SETTING 3 HYMNAL PAGE 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given to you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, "Drink of it all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do in remembrance of me." **ALL: Amen**

Leader: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith;

**ALL: We believe that Christ died for us.
We affirm that Christ was raised.
We proclaim that Christ will come again.**

Leader: In the unity of the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

***THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;**

**And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory forever and ever. Amen**



***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: Jesus welcomes you to the table. Come!

DISTRIBUTION

***TABLE BLESSING**

Leader: Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **ALL: Amen**

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join with me in prayer,

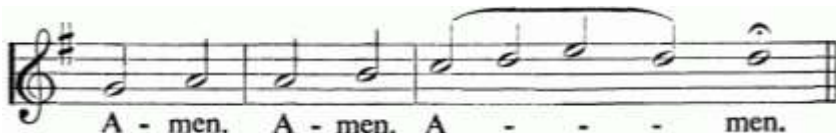
ALL: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

*BLESSING

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*THE AMEN



*SENDING HYMN #798

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

~~~~~

*As we leave worship each week, we remember the poor around the world by placing loose offerings in the "hunger bowls" on the Information Table in the Narthex. These gifts are then forwarded to the ELCA World Hunger Program.*

# Have a blessed and restful Labor Day!

---

## TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

---

Designated liturgical and music texts, Prayers of the People, back-page devotions are from *Sundays and Seasons.com* © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted by permission: Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS18497. All rights reserved.

---

### Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-717176:

"Blessed Assurance" TEXT: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1815 MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil" TEXT: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 MUSIC: Handt Hanson TEXT AND MUSIC © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc. admin. Augsburg Fortress (#512)

"Lord of All Hopefulness" TEXT: Jan Struther, 1901-1953 MUSIC: Irish Traditional TEXT © Oxford University Press

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 MUSIC: © *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress PUBLIC DOMAIN

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 TEXT AND MUSIC © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress

"Will You Come and Follow Me" TEXT: John L. Bell, b. 1949 MUSIC: Scottish traditional TEXT © 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

---

**All Scripture Readings:** New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

---

## **"We build sundaes – Sundays build us"**

Please join us on **Rally Day, September 8**, following worship for an indoor picnic including a **sundaes bar**. Everything, except the ants, will be provided. Come join us for worship, food, fun, and fellowship!

Choir practice begins on Sunday, September 15 @ 9:15. Come join us!

## **"God's Work. Our Hands." Sunday, September 22**

We are recognizing "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday on **SEPTEMBER 22**. We will be assembling the Birthday Bags with the items we have been collecting since May. We had hoped to make 20 bags but have received enough items to make 30 bags so we will need many hands. We will be taking pictures that will then be sent to the Living Lutheran. Thank you to all who helped by donating the items for these bags. This simple act of God's Work – Our Hands shares and shines the love of God to our neighbors through us. Thanks be to God!

Check out the recent issue of *The Good News Letter* for more news.



# WELCA Fall Gathering

## Saturday, October 12, 2024

9:00AM — 1:00PM

St. Paul Lutheran in Jenera



Registration and Coffee: 9:00AM — 9:30AM

Devotion — Prayers — Communion — 9:45AM

Devotion by Christine Kemerley — Ephesians 4:32

*“Be kind and forgiving”*

Program — 10:15AM —

Information on “Bees” by Ken and Jessica Depuy

Cotton Candy ~ Bee Products ~ Maple Syrup can be purchased

Free Lunch — NOON

Closing Hymn and Dismissal — 1:00PM

Offering —  $\frac{1}{2}$  to Synodical Treasurer,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to Conference Treasurer, and  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  to the Good Hope Church Food Pantry

In-Kind Offering for Good Hope Food Pantry —

Mac and Cheese, Cereal, Laundry Soap, Laundry Softeners,  
Body Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste

Registration: \$4.00 — Registration Deadline — Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

To Register, please call St. Paul Lutheran Church — 419-326-3535

Join us for FUN, FOOD, and FELLOWSHIP !!!

Spring Gathering will be at Good Hope Lutheran Church, Arlington





Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for the gift of work and the gifts God has given each of us to contribute to God's world. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Bryant Matthes, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Mr. Doherty (father of Caroline Lieser), Kristen, Jennifer Dochod, Tony Matthes, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**GRIEVING:** Becky Bean and the entire family following the death of Randy on August 21.

**MILITARY:** for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.



## The Heart of the Matter

When clay becomes a pot, it must first have a center. As a potter spins, pushes, and pulls the clay into its final form, it can easily lose its center and become misshapen. Having lost its center, it fails to fully be what it is being created to be—a pot, a pitcher, a plate, a thing of beauty, a vessel for others.

Faith and religious practice have lost their center in today's readings. Quoting Isaiah, Jesus calls into question "This people" that "honors me with their lips" but whose "hearts are far from me" (Mark 7:6). Some in the religious community have begun focusing on surface matters (the washing of hands, what one eats, the traditions of the elders) and have forgotten the core. What really matters is how one's faith is expressed in mercy, in words and actions that build up rather than tear down the neighbor.

In the second reading James wonders about those who look at themselves in a mirror and upon walking away forget who they are (James 1:23-24). For James, they are simply hearers of the word and not doers. Their lives do not reflect the love and mercy that has claimed them.

And so it is with us. We do not live as the people God has claimed us to be. Our lives lose their center. Our faith practices focus on surface things rather than the core. We fail to be what God has created and is creating us to be—vessels poured out for others. We look at ourselves in the mirror and upon walking away forget who and whose we are.

At the heart of the Christian assembly is Jesus—in word, in song, in prayer, in the neighbor, in water, bread, and wine. Jesus, who embodies forgiveness and mercy, is the heart. Again and again, life becomes misshapen. Again and again, the potter reshapes the clay. The splash of a watery cross, the taste of bread and wine: these things center life in Christ. God's mercy washes over us. God's mercy is implanted in us. God creates life anew; deformed hearts are reformed for works of mercy and love.

215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105  
419-257-3253 [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
Church Office Hours M-F 9-1